

rights and against the injustice of government corruption in Kenya;

Whereas fellow priests report that Father Kaiser spoke to them of his fear for his life on the night before his assassination;

Whereas the murders of Father Stallone, Father Graife, and Father Luigi Andeni, all of Marsabit Diocese in Kenya, the circumstances of the murder of Brother Larry Timors of Nakuru Diocese in Kenya, the murder of Father Martin Boyle of Eldoret Diocese, and the murders of other local human rights advocates in Kenya have not yet been fully explained, nor have the perpetrators of these murders been brought to justice;

Whereas the report of a Kenyan governmental commission, known as the Akiwumi Commission, on the government's investigation into tribal violence between 1992 and 1997 in Kenya's Great Rift Valley has not yet been released in spite of several requests by numerous church leaders and human rights organizations to have the Commission's findings released to the public;

Whereas, after Father Kaiser's assassination, documents were found on his body that he had intended to present to the Akiwumi Commission;

Whereas the nongovernmental Kenyan Human Rights Commission has expressed fear that the progress achieved in Kenya during the last few years in the struggle for democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and meeting the basic needs of all Kenyans is jeopardized by the current Kenyan government; and

Whereas the 1999 Country Report on Human Rights released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State reports that the Kenyan Government's "overall human rights record was generally poor, and serious problems remained in many areas; while there were some signs of improvement in a few areas, the situation worsened in others." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the violent deaths of Father John Kaiser and others who have worked to promote human rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya and expresses its outrage at those deaths;

(2) calls for a thorough investigation of those deaths that includes other persons in addition to the Kenyan authorities;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, to prepare and submit to Congress, by December 15, 2000, a report on the progress made on investigating these killings, including, particularly, a discussion of the actions taken by the Kenyan government to conduct an investigation as described in paragraph (2);

(4) calls on the President to support investigation of these killings through all diplomatic means; and

(5) calls for the final report of such an investigation to be made public.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) was laid on the table.

RELATING TO REESTABLISHMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 414) relating to the reestablishment of representative government in Afghanistan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 414

Whereas Afghanistan has existed as a sovereign nation since 1747, maintaining its independence, neutrality, and dignity;

Whereas Afghanistan had maintained its own decisionmaking through a traditional process called a "Loya Jirgah", or Grand Assembly, by selecting, respecting, and following the decisions of their leaders;

Whereas recently warlords, factional leaders, and foreign regimes have laid siege to Afghanistan, leaving the landscape littered with landmines, making the most fundamental activities dangerous;

Whereas in recent years, and especially since the Taliban came to power in 1996, Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist activity, has produced most of the world's opium supply, and has become infamous for its human rights abuses, particularly abuses against women and children;

Whereas the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, ruled the country peacefully for 40 years, and after years in exile retains his popularity and support; and

Whereas former King Mohammed Zahir Shah plans to convene an emergency "Loya Jirgah" to reestablish a stable government, with no desire to regain power or reestablish a monarchy, and the Department of State supports such ongoing efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the United States—

(1) supports democratic efforts that respect the human and political rights of all ethnic and religious groups in Afghanistan, including the effort to establish a "Loya Jirgah" process that would lead to the people of Afghanistan determining their own destiny through a democratic process and free and fair elections; and

(2) supports the continuing efforts of former King Mohammed Zahir Shah and other responsible parties searching for peace to convene a Loya Jirgah—

(A) to reestablish a representative government in Afghanistan that respects the rights of all ethnic groups, including the right to govern their own affairs through inclusive institution building and a democratic process;

(B) to bring freedom, peace, and stability to Afghanistan; and

(C) to end terrorist activities, illicit drug production, and human rights abuses in Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 414.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for crafting this important initiative. I wish to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for his expertise regarding Afghanistan and the Loya Jirgah process.

I strongly endorse H. Con. Res. 414, legislation that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States supports the former Afghan king, Mohammed Zahir Shah's, initiative to convene an emergency Loya Jirgah, a Grand Assembly, to establish a democratic government in Afghanistan.

During the times of Afghan national crises, it is traditional to hold a Grand Assembly to democratically consider means and methods to tackle significant problems. The power behind the Loya Jirgah is its assurance that all groups within Afghanistan will be equally represented in a historic effort to resolve the crisis at hand.

As the Taliban has extended its sway over Afghanistan, it has grown increasingly extremist and anti-Western, with its leaders proclaiming that virtually every aspect of Western culture violates their version of Islam.

In addition to restrictions against women, such as barring them from holding jobs or traveling unaccompanied by a male relative, ancient and cruel forms of punishment, such as stoning, have been revived.

The Taliban also continues to give refuge to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist who plots against American citizens and who may have been responsible for the bombing of the destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*.

Disturbingly, Taliban leaders, who have made narcotics the economic base of their regime, view the drug trade itself as a potential weapon. Viewing the West and the many pro-Western countries in the Muslim world as corrupt, the Taliban have no compunction against trafficking in narcotics.

The United States should firmly support this Grand Assembly process so that Afghanistan can begin again to play a constructive role in the world and so that the Afghan people can live in peace.

Accordingly, I fully urge our colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 414.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), for taking the lead on this most important issue.

Afghanistan has existed as an independent and sovereign nation from the middle of the 18th century. But in recent times, under the rule of the Taliban, it has sunk to unprecedented levels of depth in all aspects of everyday living.

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Afghanistan today is the country on the face of this planet where the rights of women are least observed and most abused. Afghanistan has given haven to some of the worst terrorist groups on the face of this planet. The former king of Afghanistan, who ruled his country peacefully for 40 years, is now asking for a grand assembly, which is the traditional method in Afghanistan for settling policy issues. I strongly support this call, although the chances of its success are certainly not assured, but clearly the goal of this grand assembly would be to restore to the Afghan people their fundamental human rights; to reestablish representative government in that country; to rebuild civil institutions; to bring stability; and most importantly, to end the terrorist activities and the appalling human rights abuses which prevail in Afghanistan today.

I call on all of my colleagues to join us in approving this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his strong support of this measure. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the vice chairman of our Committee on International Relations and chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I begin by thanking the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 414, this Member is pleased to rise in strong support of this measure and to commend the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for introducing the resolution.

The Committee on International Relations considered this resolution on October 3, 2000, and this Member wishes to express appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for expeditiously moving this measure to the floor and thank the minority for their cooperation.

Unfortunately, the situation in Afghanistan largely has disappeared from the U.S. Government's collective radar screen in recent years. This is despite the fact that Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist activity, including Osama bin Laden; that it seems to have become a major drug producing country; and that the Taliban are extraordinarily intolerant toward women, minorities, and non-Muslims.

It is also important to understand that Afghanistan has been the scene of a lengthy and devastating civil war, one which has resulted in millions of casualties. In the past few days, a renewed Taliban offensive resulted in an estimated 135,000 Afghans fleeing north into Tajikistan in the aftermath of a battle where the Taliban was victorious. Moreover, the violence in Afghanistan is spilling over into its neighboring countries. Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and others are fighting armed Islamic militants who have become trained over the years in Afghanistan. To the south, individuals seeking to turn Pakistan into a militant Islamic state, a nuclear-armed one at that, are on the rise. In addition, there are stories of Afghan fighters traveling as far as Chechnya to battle anyone who disagrees with their extreme social and religious views.

There are courageous individuals who are trying to help Afghanistan find a way out of this circle of violence. A number of Afghans from around the world have looked to Afghanistan's history and are seeking to convene a grand council, or Loya Jirgah. This is a forum where leaders from around Afghanistan would be allowed to air their views and to resolve their differences. It is not clear whether this effort would succeed. Clearly, the Taliban opposes the convening of a grand council; but it certainly is a long-shot effort worth trying in order to end this violence that has plagued Afghanistan for decades.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges this body to approve H. Con. Res. 414.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), the sponsor of this resolution, who has a very special expertise in matters of Afghanistan.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, the Taliban represent one of the great threats to stability and peace and civility on this planet. They, in fact, represent an aspect of Islam that if accepted and if influencing other areas of the world will have a tremendously, tremendously negative impact on the peace of the world but also the well-being of women who are in these Muslim countries who would then become chattel and treated like slaves, which is what happens under the Taliban's rule.

The Taliban is anti-Western beyond belief. They treat their own people like tyrants, and vicious tyrants at that. They are engaged in terrorism against the West. They are involved up to their eyeballs in the drug trade. One-third of all of the world's heroin is grown in Taliban-controlled territory in Afghanistan. These people are evil, and they pose a threat to the Western world; but

also they pose a threat to those positive elements among the Muslim world that would seek to be part of the world community and are responsible in their behavior and believe in the Western-style democracy or at least Western-style freedom for their people.

Unfortunately, over the years, as I have worked with the pro-Western elements within Afghanistan, I have been undermined over and again by our own State Department. This administration, and I really am sorry that I have to say this on the floor, this administration I honestly believe has had a policy, a covert policy, of supporting the Taliban, believing that the Taliban will at least create stability in Afghanistan. This is like the stability that Adolf Hitler brought to Europe, or the stability that prison guards bring to a prison. Yet we know that the Taliban's repression, their involvement with drugs and terrorism, is almost unconscionable.

Now, why do I say this administration has failed on this point? Because the administration has time and again undermined efforts on this Congressman's part to support those people who are opposing the Taliban in Afghanistan. My efforts and the efforts of other moderate Muslims have been undermined over and over again. In fact, this administration disarmed the opposition, was part and parcel of disarming the opposition to the Taliban, who then moved forward and wiped out their opposition in northern Afghanistan. It is a horrendous, horrendous legacy that we have to deal with now that this administration's policies have led to bolstering this horrible regime.

I would ask that this resolution be supported because it does offer another alternative. There is a king of Afghanistan who is pro-Western and a very reasonable person and tried to lead his country, where women had their rights respected under the former king. He was overthrown at a time just before the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. We need to work with that former king to bring about a democratic government. The people are not fanatics in Afghanistan. They are devoted Muslims, but they are not fanatics like the Taliban. They are dedicated people who love their families; yet they have been abandoned after their fight with the Soviet Union; they have been abandoned to forces like the Taliban.

Let me just say that the Taliban, by and large, and I know this very well because I, probably the only Member of this body now, was in Afghanistan during the war, fighting the Russians with the Mujadin, and I was there in 1988 with the Mujadin and I know the commanders. The Taliban are not the Mujadin who fought the Russians. Unfortunately, once the Mujadin had defeated the Russians, the United States walked away and we did not support the type of elements that would have

created a more positive country in Afghanistan, and other anti-Western Muslim countries moved in to get control of the drug trade and to create this monstrous regime.

We need to reassert ourselves and to become a positive force for the people of Afghanistan so they can determine their own destiny through elections, and this Loya Jirgah would be the first step in doing that. That is part of their culture.

I would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN), who over the years of me trying to find peace and getting rid of this horrible Taliban regime, he has been so active and supportive of my efforts, and over and over again he joined with me in calling for the State Department to provide me the documents to find out if indeed our State Department had this horrible policy of supporting the Taliban, and the State Department has not provided us the documents that we need to determine whether or not these charges are false or not.

What does that say if the State Department is unwilling to provide those documents? So I would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN). He has done so much for the cause of peace and justice in this part of the world and to create a more stable world, especially concerning the Taliban.

I would ask for my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 414.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for his strong support of this measure and for his kind words. I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for coming to the floor in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 414, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the con-

current resolution (H. Con. Res. 426) concerning the violence in the Middle East.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 426

Whereas the Arab-Israeli conflict must be resolved by peaceful negotiation;

Whereas since 1993 Israel and the Palestinians have been engaged in intensive negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza;

Whereas the United States, through its consistent support of Israel and the cause of peace, made the current peace process possible;

Whereas the underlying basis of those negotiations was recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) by Israel in exchange for the renunciation of violence by the PLO and its Chairman Yasser Arafat, first expressed in a letter to then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dated September 9, 1993, in which Mr. Arafat stated: "[T]he PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence, and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators.";

Whereas as a result of those negotiations, the Palestinians now fully control over 40 percent of the West Bank and Gaza, with over 95 percent of the Palestinian population under the civil administration of the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas as a result of peace negotiations, Israel turned over control of these areas to the Palestinian Authority with the clear understanding and expectation that the Palestinians would maintain order and security there;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority, with the assistance of Israel and the international community, created a strong police force, almost twice the number allowed under the Oslo Accords, specifically to maintain public order;

Whereas the Government of Israel made clear to the world its commitment to peace at Camp David, where it expressed its readiness to take wide-ranging and painful steps in order to bring an end to the conflict, but these proposals were rejected by Chairman Arafat;

Whereas perceived provocations must only be addressed at the negotiating table;

Whereas it is only through negotiations, and not through violence, that the Palestinians can hope to achieve their political aspirations;

Whereas even in the face of the desecration of Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish holy site in the West Bank, the Government of Israel has made it clear that it will withdraw forces from Palestinian areas if the Palestinian Authority maintains order in those areas; and

Whereas the Palestinian leadership not only did too little for far too long to control the violence, but in fact encouraged it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses its solidarity with the state and people of Israel at this time of crisis;

(2) condemns the Palestinian leadership for encouraging the violence and doing so little for so long to stop it, resulting in the senseless loss of life;

(3) calls upon the Palestinian leadership to refrain from any exhortations to public incitement, urges the Palestinian leadership to vigorously use its security forces to act immediately to stop all violence, to show re-

spect for all holy sites, and to settle all grievances through negotiations;

(4) commends successive Administrations on their continuing efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East;

(5) urges the current Administration to use its veto power at the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the Security Council does not again adopt unbalanced resolutions addressing the uncontrolled violence in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority; and

(6) calls on all parties involved in the Middle East conflict to make all possible efforts to reinvigorate the peace process in order to prevent further senseless loss of life by all sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, would not somebody in opposition have time allotted to them in opposition to the resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) opposed to the resolution?

Mr. LANTOS. No, Mr. Speaker. I favor the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) oppose the resolution?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, yes, I do, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) will control the time in opposition.

Mr. RAHALL. How much time, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Twenty minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 426.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 426. The past several weeks have seen the situation in the Middle East spiral almost out of control. The underlying cause is that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is attempting to dictate Israeli concessions at the negotiating table through the unbridled use of violence; but this Congress, together with our friends in Israel and elsewhere, must join in saying no to that sort of violence.